(c) and (d) Efforts are being made to generate additional earnings through commercial publicity by adopting a new approach on the subject.

Parcel Service Trains

636. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether parcel service trains have been introduced between Delhi-Mumbai and to other cities;

(b) whether it is proposed to introduce a parcel express train to Tuticorin *via* Chennai from Delhi to harness the potential of the port at Tuticorin;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The traffic originating and terminating at Tuticorin Port is only bulk traffic such as Coal, Coke, Fertilizer, Sugar, Timber logs, Crude Edible Oil, Petroleum Products, Ores, Liquid Chemicals, Containers etc., which are transported in goods wagons. These commodities are not transported as parcel traffic.

Racket in refund of tickets

†637. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a big racket is operating in Railways on the pretext of refund of tickets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite completion of journey, refunds are claimed on the same tickets;

(c) the total amount paid against refunds of tickets during last three years throughout the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government would constitute a committee to enquire as to whether it is not a big scam;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) One case was detected in December, 2004 at Bharuch Reservation office, under Vadodara Division of Western Railway where refunds were granted fraudulently by way of cancellation of fake tickets.

(b) Possibility of such refunds cannot be ruled out, but no case of this nature has been reported.

(c) A total amount of approximately Rs. 4790 crore has been paid towards refund of reserved tickets cancelled through computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) across the counter, during the financial years, 2003-2004 & 2004-2005, for which data is available.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Haridaspur-Paradip BG link

638. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orissa Government has signed an MoU for construction of Haridaspur-Paradip BG link;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame within which it would be taken up for construction, completed and operationalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) provides for implementation of the broad gauge rail link through Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with equity participation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, Government of Orissa, Paradip Port Trust, M/s Essel Mining & Indus., Ltd., M/s Rungta Mines Ltd. and M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.

(c) The project is targeted for completion in 2008-09.